

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 11-12 are pending herein. Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled, while new claims 11-12 have been added hereby.

Claims 1-6, 9 and 10 were rejected under § 102(a) over Inoue et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite that the adsorbent includes a composition which comprises, in addition to the high-silica zeolite, a heat-resistant oxide loaded with a noble metal. The heat-resistant oxide loaded with a noble metal was recited in dependent claims 9 and 10, for example.

Inoue et al. disclose catalytically active zeolites for cleaning exhaust gas. Apparently, the disclosed zeolites have an $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ratio within a range of about 20 to 100. Further, the zeolite is ion exchanged with Group Ib and VIII elements (column 3, lines 13-17). The zeolite, after ion exchange, may be pelletized with any of a number of natural clays or inorganic compounds (column 3, lines 47-54). After pellets are formed, they are calcined. Apparently, the PTO has relied on the disclosure by Inoue et al. of various inorganic compounds for a heat-resistant oxide. However, the inorganic compounds of Inoue et al. are not loaded with a noble metal. Inoue et al. teach that the inorganic compounds (e.g., alumina, silica, magnesia) are pelletized with the aluminosilicate after the aluminosilicate is ion exchanged with a

noble metal. Thus, Inoue et al. fail to disclose a heat-resistant oxide loaded with a noble metal.

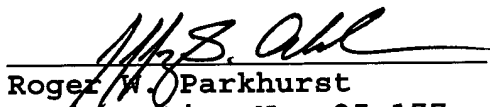
Since Inoue et al. fail to disclose all features of the presently claimed invention, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection over Inoue et al. are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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